

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A thermal ink which comprises a colour former, a colour developer, a sensitizer, and at least one pigment; the colour former comprising 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran; the colour developer comprising bisphenol A; and the sensitizer comprising dimethyl terephthalate.
2. (Original) A thermal ink according to claim 1, in which 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran is the only colour former present, and bisphenol A is the only colour developer present.
3. (Previously Presented) A thermal ink according to claim 1, which is free of wax.
4. (Previously Presented) A thermal ink according to claim 1, in which the pigment is calcined clay, precipitated calcium carbonate, and/or silica.
5. (Previously Presented) A thermal ink according to claim 1, in which the particle size of solids present in the ink is less than 1.5 μ .
6. (Currently Amended) A thermal ink according to claim 5, in which the particle size of solids present in the ink is less than ~~10~~ 1.0 μ .
7. (Previously Presented) A thermal ink according to claim 1, which also comprises polyvinyl alcohol.
8. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a thermal ink comprising a colour former, a colour developer, a sensitizer, and at least one pigment, the colour former comprising 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran, the colour developer comprising bisphenol A, and the sensitizer comprising dimethyl terephthalate; which method comprises:

grinding together the colour former and dimethyl terephthalate; in a separate operation, grinding together the colour developer and dimethyl terephthalate; and subsequently blending together said ground products together with a pigment.

9. and 10. (Cancelled).
